

Nature's Call

An Activity Newsletter for Kids by Utah's Project WILD -- Fall 1993



The Fascinating Bat

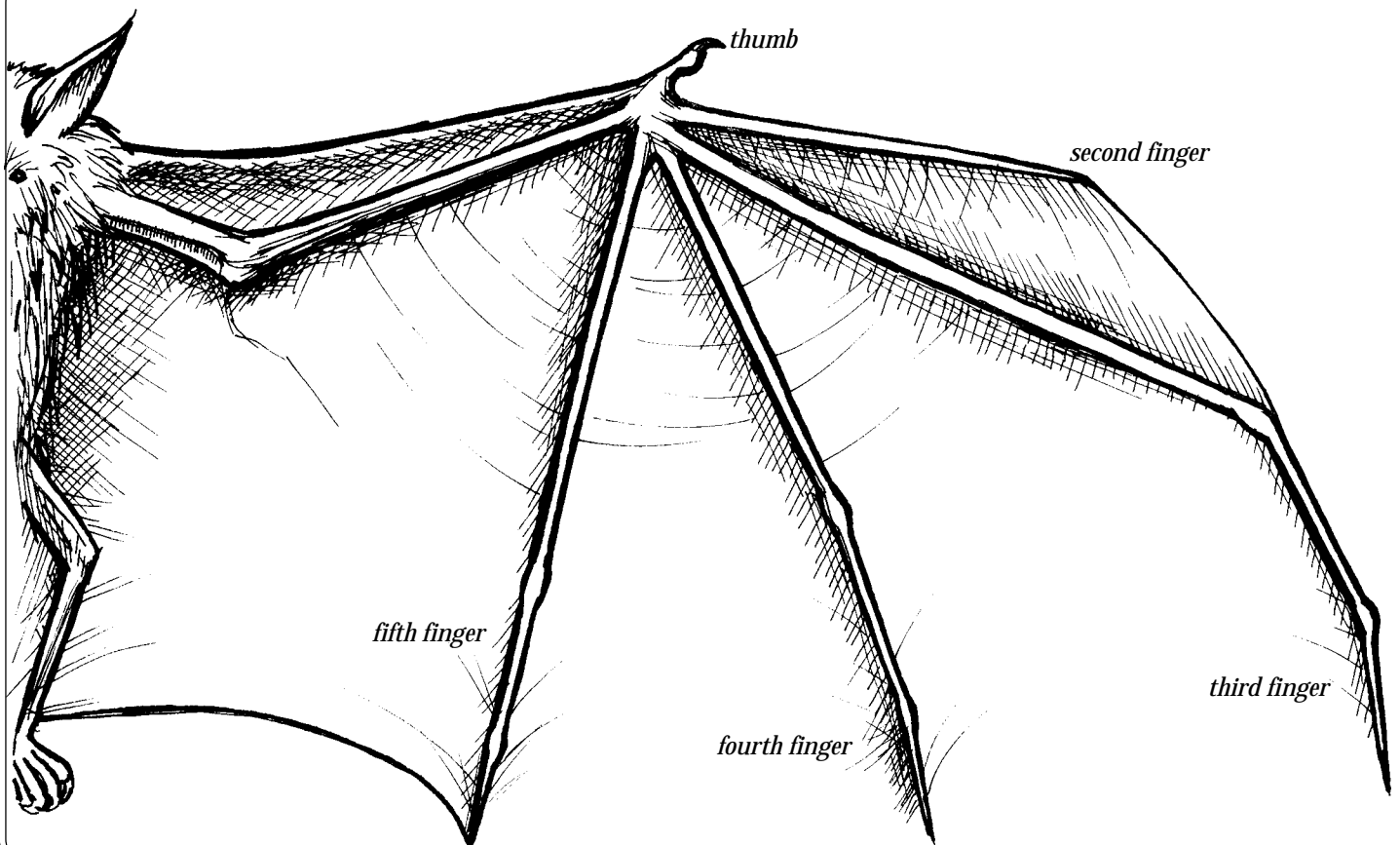
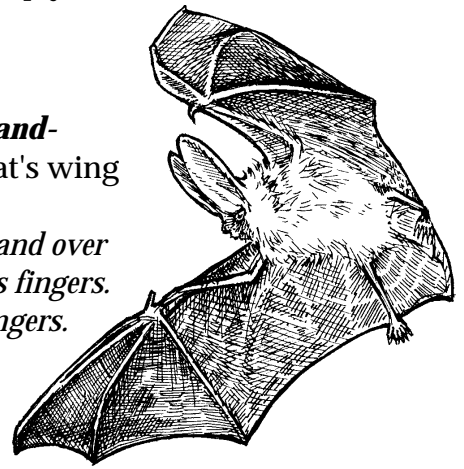
Did you know that bats are the only mammals that can fly? Did you know that bats are the only major predators of night-flying insects and that the little brown bat, the most common bat in North America, can catch up to 600 mosquitoes in an hour?! Even though most bats feed on insects, many tropical bats eat fruit or nectar. These bats are responsible for spreading seeds and pollinating plants in the rain forest. There are even a few bats that feed on small fish, lizards, frogs and mice. Bats are fascinating! And the following activities will help you learn even more about them!

Bats are Handsome!

Bats are grouped in the Order Chiroptera, which means "**hand-wing**" -- and that's what the bat wing is, **a hand!** The bones in a bat's wing are like the bones in your arm and hand.

Below is the wing of a bat. *With your palm up, lay your left hand over the bat wing and, as closely as possible, match your fingers with the bat's fingers. Now, trace your hand, showing how your fingers compare to the bat's fingers.*

To show how the skin forms the bat's wing, finish drawing the lines which connect the tips of the bat's fingers. This tough but thin skin gives wings to one of the super fliers of the night! ▼



Habitats for Utah's Bats

Eighteen different kinds of bats live in Utah, feeding each night on thousands of insects, including mosquitoes, moths, beetles and grasshoppers.



During the day, bats find safe places to roost (or sleep), using the sharp claws on their feet to hang upside down. Utah's bats roost in some of the most interesting places -- like behind rocks, under the bark or in the leaves and branches of trees, in caves, in attics and under roofs of buildings, and in cracks in rocks. ***In the scene above, draw some places where Utah's bats could roost during the day while they wait for nightfall.***

Bat Match

There are almost 1000 species of bats in the world, and many of them have names that describe how they look. *Take a close look at the bats on this page and match each bat face with a name that describes it.*

Townsend's big-eared bat

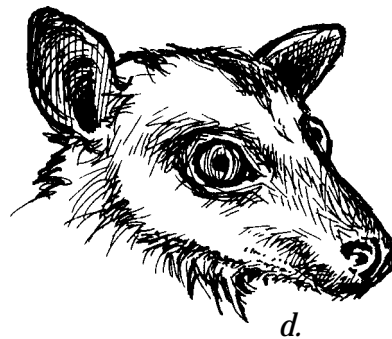
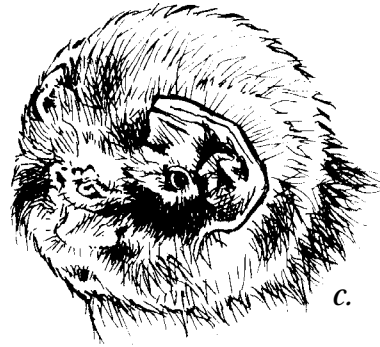
spear-nosed bat

flying fox

spotted bat

ghost bat

long-nosed bat



(Look for answers at the bottom of the next page!)

What's UPside Down?

--a survey of bat attitudes

When you want to know how people feel about something, you can ask them questions and record their answers. This is called a *survey*.

To learn how other people feel about bats, find some adults and kids outside your classroom and ask them the questions below. Keep a tally of how many yes and no replies you get.

There's even a space for you to add your own question. Think of another question to ask in your survey and write your question below. ▼



Survey of "Bat Attitudes"

	Yes	No
1. Do you like bats?	_____	_____
2. Are bats helpful to humans?	_____	_____
3. Are you afraid of bats? (If yes, you might ask why!)	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____

*Since you have been studying bats, you know that bats are helpful to humans and that there is no reason to be afraid of them. What did you learn about how other people feel about bats? Do you agree with them? **If there were replies that you don't agree with, what could you do to change those "bat attitudes"?***



(Bat Match Answers: a. spotted; b. spear-nosed; c. ghost; d. flying fox; e. long-nosed; f. Townsend's big-eared.)

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